

City of Fairfax
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
March 12, 2015
City Hall – Work Session Room

PRAB Members Present

Jon Stehle
Michael Slawski
Jane Albro
Michael Anderson
Michael Breslin
Jeff Ferrell
Kirk Holley

Evie Ifantides
Janet Jaworski
Brian Knapp
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Harry Wilbur
Leslie Herman

Members Absent

Robert M. Reinsel

Guests

Robert Grape, Region 3 Service Area Manager, Fairfax County Dept. of Neighborhood & Community Services
Anne Chase, Parks & Recreation Department
Julie Miles, Parks & Recreation Department
Mitzi Taylor, Parks & Recreation Department
Michelle Veresink Richmond, Parks & Recreation Department

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by Chairman Jon Stehle.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Kirk Holley moved to accept the agenda, Zinta Rodgers-Rickert seconded.
The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Janet Jaworski requested changes to her Stakeholder Update to correct dates and clarify between the Planning Commission and City Council.
Michael Slawski moved to accept the corrected minutes, Zinta Rodgers-Rickert seconded.
The minutes were approved.

4. Old Business

a) Budget Update

Parks and Recreation presented their proposed budget on Monday, March 9.
Jon Stehle pointed out that Director Michael McCarty tied the Parks & Recreation budget back to the Strategic Master Plan and the City Council Goals.
Jon Stehle was glad to see original Capital Requests for budget shown alongside the City Manager's Capital Request proposed budget.

Jon Stehle stressed that we need to encourage City Council to make budget decisions in the context of what we are trying to achieve with the Strategic Master Plan.

Brian Knapp stressed the importance of having the ADA study done by outside professionals who do not work for the City.

PRAB reviewed the Budget Memos that have been prepared for City Council to date.

After reviewing the budget memo titled *Total Cost of Each Special Event (by event)*, Jeff Ferrell inquired about how much money is generated by these events.

Leslie Herman explained the Independence Day Celebration Committee expenses.

Brian Knapp pointed out numbers are much better than 10 years ago.

b) Old Town Square

Leslie Herman stated that the park opening has been pushed back to May 2. The opening will be in the morning followed by Derby-Q beginning at 2pm. The delay has been caused mostly by weather at this point. There are other plans in place for Derby-Q should Old Town Square not be ready to open.

c) OurParksOurFuture.com

Jon Stehle encouraged PRAB members to engage through the OurParksOurFuture.com site. He will work with Michael Breslin on online and social media initiatives, including using photos.

5. New Business

a) Providence Community Center

Julie Miles and Anne Chase welcomed Robert Grape, who is the Region 3 Service Area Manager for Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood & Community Services.

Robert Grape explained the services that his office provides at the new Providence Community Center, including the community programs and senior programs that they offer.

Grape, Miles and Chase expressed the desire to work together so as not to duplicate programs and to partner when possible.

Harry Wilbur brought up that a community swimming pool would be a good area to work together.

Zinta Rodger-Rickert suggested a dog park.

PRAB members are welcome to tour the facility.

b) Cell Tower

Leslie Herman explained that the cell tower at Fairfax High School is moving ahead and the monopole is in place. She explained that Michael McCarty went before City Council to discuss the possibility of putting a cell tower on park property.

Harry Wilbur suggested that it be a tower that blends into the environment and asked if the funds generated by this would be able to go to Parks and Recreation directly.

Leslie Herman and Jon Stehle responded that the money would go to the general fund.

Harry Wilbur asked if we could at least get credit for the revenue generated. Leslie Herman explained that the project needs a 50' by 50' cleared plot, so they are considering the Jester Property.

6. Parks and Recreation Department Report

a) Director Position

Leslie Herman explained that the Director position has not been posted yet and that she will be serving as Acting Director until the position is filled.

b) Snyder Trail

Leslie Herman explained that the contract has been approved. The pre-construction meeting is being planned and civic associations will be notified.

c) Old Town Square

Leslie Herman reported that work is moving slowly but we are looking at a May 2 opening.

d) Sherwood Community Center Bricks

Leslie Herman explained that there had been damage to the bricks in front of Sherwood as a result of the thawing. The bricks had been placed on sand and the bricks heaved during the thaw. The Parks crew has done a nice job fixing it for a rental that was booked. However, the thaw is not over and we will need to have that area redone. Parks Manager Gregg Tonge is looking into quotes from companies for the repairs. Unfortunately the City's liability insurance will not cover the expense.

e) Fairfax Little League

City Council has approved the Fairfax Little League parade to be held April 11. Leslie Herman and Scott Pierce went before the School Board for approval for the new dugouts and batting cage at Providence Elementary Field 4. School Board has approved and the documents are now with zoning awaiting approval.

f) Craft Show Applications

Harry Wilbur asked about the number of craft show applications to date listed in the PRAB report.

Leslie Herman explained that applications went out three weeks late because of a backlog with the graphic designer. Deadline has been delayed about three weeks, hence the lower numbers currently listed.

g) Mitzi Taylor

The Independence Day Celebration Committee (IDCC) Yard Sale will be held March 21 from 8am-1pm. Donated items can be dropped off at Green Acres on Friday, March 20.

Derby-Q will be held May 2. There are currently five breweries signed up, two bands that will be performing, and tickets are on sale.

Rock the Block! begins on May 22 with Gonzo's Nose. The event will be the fourth Friday of every month through September. This year all City restaurants are allowed to apply and priority will be given to Downtown restaurants.

There are currently 78 Fall Festival Applications and 91 for Craft Show Applications.

7. Stakeholder Updates

a) School Board – Robert Reinsel

Not present.

b) Planning Commission – Janet Jaworski

No report.

c) Senior Center – Jane Albro

Antiques and Trinkets Appraisal Show will be held on March 21 at Sherwood Community Center.

d) Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley

On Tuesday the Committee presented a Community Appearance Award to the Sherwood Community Center. Parks Manager Gregg Tonge accepted the award.

The Committee will be modifying the awards with sponsor Ace Hardware to include a monetary award moving forward.

The Committee is also creating a new program for associations to offer a matching grant for small scale improvements in places of public view. Nominations are due by the end of the month.

e) Commission on the Arts – Harry Wilbur

No report.

f) NVRPA – Brian Knapp

Knapp encouraged PRAB members to come on March 22nd to Historic Blenheim to celebrate and thank Mike and Laura McCarty for their service to Parks and Recreation in this area and Virginia as a whole.

10. Matters of the Members

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert expressed her desire for a dog park.

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert expressed concern that Derby-Q had not been promoted well and suggested that the City's website have a place that lists upcoming events.

Leslie Herman responded that she will check with IT regarding opportunities with new web design.

Michael Anderson commented that we should use the TGIFairfax app more effectively for these events.

Leslie Herman commented that money has been set aside to do the Fall Festival app again and a 4th of July app if the funds are approved for the FY16 budget.

Harry Wilbur suggested that PRAB remain in the loop for the VDOT project to add a sidewalk at Rt. 123 and Accotink which would involve the removal of trees.

Jeff Ferrell mentioned Historic Fairfax Association discussed a possible project for Oak Knolls so they could access Pat Rodio Park as well as upgrading park equipment in that park.

Harry Wilbur asked for clarification of demands for World Police and Fire Games.

Leslie Herman responded that Memorandum of Understanding has already been approved by City Council. Some staff will be present at the Criterium as representatives.

Jon Stehle encouraged PRAB members to be present on March 24 for the City Council discussion of the budget.

11. Adjournment

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert moved to end the meeting. Jeff Ferrell seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.